

# Program Notice

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## **ELIMINATION OF SOYBEAN TEST WEIGHT AS AN OFFICIAL GRADE FACTOR**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this notice is to announce a change to the United States Standards for Soybeans as announced in *Federal Register*, Vol. 71, No. 172, dated September 6, 2006. The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is removing test weight per bushel (TW) as a grade determining factor for soybeans. Additionally, reporting requirements for TW in soybeans will change from whole and half pounds with a fraction of a half pound disregarded, to reporting TW to the nearest tenth of a pound.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

Since the establishment of the United States Standards for Soybeans in 1940, test weight has been included as a grade determining factor and a general indicator of overall soybean quality. Some perceived that higher TW or density is indicative of a higher yield of oil and protein. However, research, analysis of inspection data, and other information indicates that TW is not a good indicator of the oil and protein content of processed soybeans. Based on this proven information, GIPSA is changing the minimum TW from a grade determining factor to a non-grade determining factor in the Official U.S. Standards for Soybeans. GIPSA has also changed reporting requirements for TW to the nearest tenth of a pound to bring TW in line with other factors in the Official U.S. Standards for Soybeans, such as foreign material and moisture content.

### **3. POLICY**

Effective September 1, 2007, GIPSA will amend the United States Standards for Soybeans to change soybean test weight from a grade determining factor, to a non-grade determining factor. Reporting requirements for TW have also been changed to report TW to the nearest tenth of a pound.

Although TW has been removed as a grading factor, official personnel will continue to perform TW analysis as part of grading services unless the applicant for service specifically requests that TW not be performed.

#### **4. EFFECTS ON CUSUM LOADING PLAN AND CERTIFICATION**

##### **a. CuSum**

The factor TW will be moved from Table 17 - Grade Limits and Breakpoints for Soybeans to Table 18 - Breakpoints for Soybeans Special Grades and Factors.

If the applicant specifies on the load order that TW is not required, do not perform the TW analysis.

For load orders that are silent in regard to TW, official personnel must perform TW analysis and record results on the inspection log as an “average” quality factor. In this case, breakpoints and starting values are not used. The mathematical/weighted average of the subplot TW results will be used for certification purposes.

If the applicant specifies a minimum TW or “no subplot” to exceed criteria for the factor TW, apply CuSum plan tolerances and certify the mathematical/weighted average of the lot.

##### **b. Certification**

When applicable, record the TW to the nearest tenth of a pound on the pan ticket and certificate.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

This policy will be implemented for all soybean inspections performed on or after September 1, 2007, except as noted below.

For CuSum lots, composite lots, combined lots, and average composite lots that are comprised of multiple units, implementation of this policy will be in effect when all units are inspected under the same grading criteria.

For example: A ship started loading on August 28, 2007, and finished loading on September 2, 2007. Official personnel would apply TW as a grade determining factor and apply CuSum values and tolerances for each subplot including the sublots loaded on or after September 1, 2007. For each lot that starts loading after September 1, 2007, the new policy is applicable.

**6. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Bob Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224, or email at [Robert.S.Lijewski@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.S.Lijewski@usda.gov)

*/s/ John Giler*

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Field Management Division